



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 786

LCO No. 2673

02673_____PS_

Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING AND
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL
OFFICERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2010*) For the purposes of
2 sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act, "animal control officer" includes a
3 regional animal control officer, assistant regional animal control officer
4 and municipal animal control officer, as defined in section 22-327 of
5 the general statutes, and an assistant municipal animal control officer,
6 and "council" means the Police Officer Standards and Training Council
7 established pursuant to section 7-294b of the general statutes.

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2010*) (a) The council, in
9 consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, shall develop a
10 training program, within available appropriations, for certification of
11 animal control officers. The program shall consist of not less than
12 eighty hours of training including, but not limited to: (1) State and
13 federal law relating to arrest, search and seizure; (2) state law relating
14 to animals; (3) the basics of investigation; (4) report writing and record
15 keeping; (5) shelter or pound standards; (6) disease recognition; (7)

16 euthanasia policy; (8) ethics and professionalism in dealing with the
17 public; (9) cruelty and neglect investigations, including, but not limited
18 to, blood sports and cults; (10) animal bite and vicious animal
19 investigations; (11) officer safety and loss prevention; (12) animal care,
20 identification, behavior, handling and capture and restraint
21 techniques; (13) overview of the legal system, court structure and
22 terminology; (14) warrants; and (15) civil liability issues.

23 (b) The council, in consultation with the Commissioner of
24 Agriculture, shall hire one instructor for the purpose of instructing,
25 certifying and retraining animal control officers. The council, in
26 consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, shall approve or
27 develop an examination, within available appropriations, designed to
28 test proficiency in the subjects covered by the training program
29 developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The examination
30 may be written, oral, practical or a combination thereof.

31 (c) The council, in consultation with the Commissioner of
32 Agriculture, may approve, reject or revoke approval of any animal
33 control officer training courses, including, but not limited to, courses
34 provided by the National Animal Control Association, the American
35 Humane Association or the Humane Society of the United States for
36 inclusion in the training programs developed pursuant to this section.

37 (d) The council, in consultation with the Commissioner of
38 Agriculture, may, from time to time, amend or alter the training
39 programs and the examination the council develops pursuant to this
40 section.

41 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) Each person appointed as
42 an animal control officer on and after October 1, 2010, shall be certified
43 by the council not later than two years after such appointment. Except
44 as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the council shall only
45 certify a person who has satisfactorily completed the training program
46 developed pursuant to section 2 of this act. The provisions of section
47 7-294d of the general statutes concerning police officer training shall

48 not apply to animal control officers appointed pursuant to section
49 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a of the general statutes, unless the duties of
50 such officer include carrying a firearm or custodial arrest.

51 (b) The council, in consultation with the Commissioner of
52 Agriculture, shall develop a retraining program for persons who have
53 served as animal control officers in the state for a period of five years
54 since July 1, 2000. Such officers shall complete the retraining program
55 in order to be certified. The council shall refuse to certify any officer
56 who fails to complete such training satisfactorily.

57 (c) The council may decline to issue a certificate if (1) the applicant
58 falsified any document in order to obtain or renew the certificate, (2)
59 the applicant has been convicted of a felony, (3) the applicant has been
60 found not guilty of a felony by reason of mental disease or defect
61 pursuant to section 53a-13 of the general statutes, (4) the applicant has
62 been convicted of a violation of subsection (c) of section 21a-279 of the
63 general statutes or section 29-9 of the general statutes, or (5) the
64 applicant has been refused issuance of a certificate or similar
65 authorization or has had a certificate or other similar authorization
66 revoked by another jurisdiction on grounds that would authorize
67 revocation under the provisions of this subsection.

68 (d) The council may revoke any certificate if (1) the certificate was
69 issued by administrative error, (2) the certificate was obtained through
70 misrepresentation or fraud, (3) the holder falsified any document in
71 order to obtain or renew any certificate, (4) the holder has been
72 convicted of a felony, (5) the holder has been found not guilty of a
73 felony by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13
74 of the general statutes, (6) the holder has been convicted of a violation
75 of subsection (c) of section 21a-279 of the general statutes or section
76 29-9 of the general statutes, or (7) the holder has been refused issuance
77 of a certificate or similar authorization or has had the certificate or
78 other authorization revoked by another jurisdiction on grounds that
79 would authorize revocation under the provisions of this subsection.

80 Whenever the council believes there is a reasonable basis for
81 revocation of the certificate of an animal control officer, the council,
82 after consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, shall give the
83 holder of the certificate notice and an opportunity for a hearing, in
84 accordance with the provisions of section 4-182 of the general statutes.
85 Any officer whose certification is revoked pursuant to this section may
86 reapply for certification no sooner than two years after the date on
87 which the revocation order becomes final.

88 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2010*) (a) If a person who was
89 employed and certified as an animal control officer is not employed in
90 such capacity, such certification shall expire after two years of
91 unemployment, unless such officer has been on a leave of absence.
92 Upon reemployment as an animal control officer, such officer shall
93 apply for certification and become certified in the manner provided in
94 section 2 of this act.

95 (b) A municipality may appoint a temporary animal control officer
96 who does not hold a certificate pursuant to sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of
97 this act for a period not to exceed thirty days per calendar year. The
98 council may grant a one time thirty-day extension for such temporary
99 animal control officer. The council may encourage municipalities to
100 share the services of animal control officers in the event a temporary
101 animal control officer is needed by a municipality.

102 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2010*) The Commissioner of
103 Agriculture, in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and
104 Training Council, may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
105 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
106 provisions of sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act, including, but not
107 limited to, establishing procedures for applying for certification as an
108 animal control officer.

109 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2010*) No municipality shall be
110 liable for compensation to any municipal animal control officer whose
111 certification under section 3 or 4 of this act has been revoked or

112 expired during the period of such revocation or expiration.

113 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2009*) The sum of eighty thousand dollars is
 114 appropriated to the Department of Public Safety, from the General
 115 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, for the Police Officer
 116 Standards and Training Council for the purposes specified in sections
 117 1 to 5, inclusive, of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require municipal animal control officers to complete training to be developed by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, in consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, and to be certified by said council.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]